DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* **v.** *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

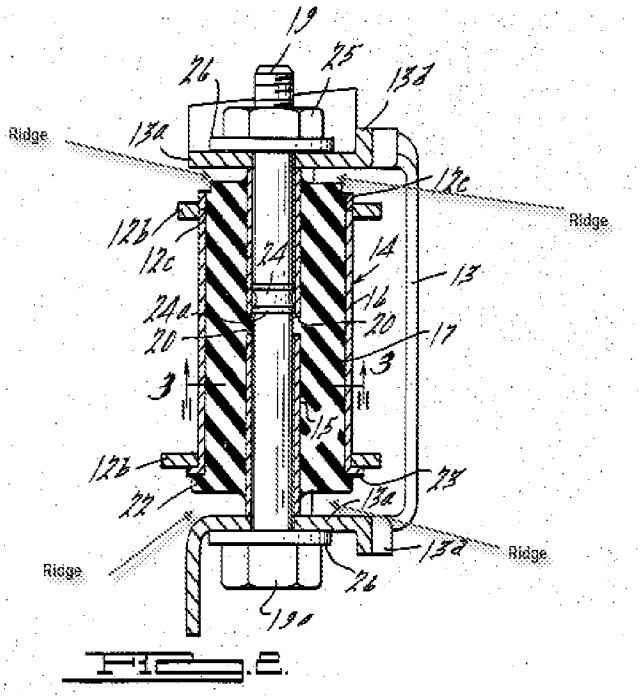
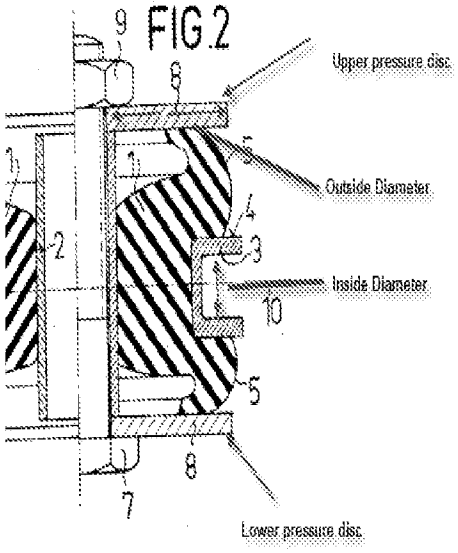


FIG. 2



3. Regarding the claim limitations “in particular for a motor-driven pump unit of a power steering system” and “so that a particularly high flexibility of the rubber mounting in the case of movements in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the bolt is achieved,” as stated in Claim 1, these introductory statements are being construed as intended use. These statements and all other functional statements have been carefully considered but deemed not to impose any structural limitations on the claims distinguishable over the Referenced device which is capable of being used as claimed if one desired to do so. MPEP 2112.

4. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jordens GB Patent 1,389,731 (hereinafter Jordens) in view of Werner U.S. Patent 3,687,404 (hereinafter Werner).

5. Regarding Claim 1, Jordens teaches:

- **A rubber mounting, in particular for a motor-driven pump unit of a power steering system, said rubber mounting having a holding flange** (lower pressure disc, 8 Fig. 2, also see annotated figure 2), **a bolt** (bolt, 7 Fig. 2) **which starts to extend from the holding flange, a rubber element** (rubber inner body, 1 Fig. 2, Page 2, Lines 33-35) **disposed on the bolt, and a fastening eye** (outer ring, 3 Fig. 2) **disposed on the rubber element.**

6. Jordens does not teach the bolt being waisted. However, Werner teaches the use of a bolt with an annular detent groove (24) (as shown in Fig. 2), which teaches the bolt being substantially wasited or tapered. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the bolt with an annular detent groove disposed in it as taught by Werner in order to reduce the amount of material used in the bolt, thus decreasing its weight of the assembly.

7. Regarding Claim 2, the claimed invention is taught as discussed above and Jordens further teaches:

- **at the end of the bolt facing away from the holding flange there is mounted a supporting disk** (upper pressure disc, 8 Fig. 2, also see annotated figure 2)**.**

8. Regarding Claim 3, the claimed invention is taught as discussed above and Jordens further teaches:

- **the bolt is inserted through the holding flange and the supporting disk is part of a nut** (nut, 9 Fig. 2) **which is screwed on the bolt.**

9. Regarding Claim 4, the claimed invention is taught as discussed above and Jordens further teaches:

- **the outside diameter of the supporting disk is larger than the inside diameter of the fastening eye** (see annotated figure 2)**.** As pointed out in annotated figure 2, the diameter of the upper pressure disc is grater than the inner diameter of the outer ring.

10. Regarding Claim 5, the claimed invention is taught as discussed above and Werner further teaches:

- **the rubber element is provided with ridges at its axial ends** (see annotated figure 2)**.**

11. Regarding Claim 6, the claimed invention is taught as discussed above and Werner further teaches:

- **the ridges are radially oriented so that they rest against the bolt.** As can be seen in Fig. 2 as well as figure 2, the ridges lie substantially against the where the bolts penetrate the bracket arms (13a).

12. Regarding Claim 7, the claimed invention is taught as discussed above and Werner further teaches:

- **the ridges are axially oriented so that they rest against the holding flange and the supporting disk, respectively.** As discussed with reference to claim 2, the ridges as shown in annotated figure 2, rest against the bracket arms (13a) which are analogous to the pressure discs (8) in Jordens, thus teaching the claimed location.

13. Regarding Claim 8, the claimed invention is taught as discussed above and Jordens further teaches:

- **in the region in which the fastening eye is disposed the rubber mounting is provided with radially oriented ribs** (annular ribs, 14 Fig. 4)**.**

14. Regarding Claim 9, the claimed invention is taught as discussed above but the combination of Jordens in view of Werner does not teach the length of the waisted section of the bolt being greater than the thickness of the fastening eye. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the length of the waisted section greater than the thickness of the fastening eye, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch,* 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980). Please note, the examiner suggests to add claim language detailing the reason for why the waisted section length is greater than the thickness of the fastening eye.

15. Regarding Claim 10, the claimed invention is taught as discussed above and Jordens further teaches:

- **wherein the rubber element is embodied as a one-piece part.** A can be seen in Fig. 2, the inner part (1) of the rubber body is substantially one piece.

16. Regarding Claim 11, the claimed invention is taught as discussed above and Jordens further teaches:

- **wherein the rubber element is embodied as a two-piece part.** As can be seen in Fig. 4, the inner part (1) of the rubber is body is thus

made up of two parts, the inner section (12) and the outer section (11) and are joined by a rib and groove interaction (Page, 2 Lines 76-81).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER GARFT whose telephone number is (571)270-1171. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday/7:30AM-5PM-1st Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. Allen Shriver can be reached on 571-272-6698. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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